

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

1. (Currently Amended) A blend for use as a barrier coating on a substrate, wherein the barrier coating provides a hydrostatic head barrier sufficient to prevent passage of aqueous fluids but allow passage of water vapor through said barrier coating, said blend comprising a paraffin wax emulsion and a polymer emulsion, said polymer emulsion comprising a polymer containing polymerized units of one or more C<sub>1-12</sub> esters of acrylic or methacrylic acid and a vinyl ester of a C<sub>8-13</sub> neo-acid obtained from a single or mixture of tri- and tetramers of propylene, the polymer having a T<sub>g</sub> of -15 to -70 °C, wherein a dried coating of the blend on a substrate has a hydrostatic head barrier sufficient to prevent passage of aqueous fluids but allow passage of water vapor through the coating; said substrate selected from the group consisting of a nonwoven web, a nonwoven absorbent pad, a nonwoven textile, and a textile fabric.

2. (Original) The blend of claim 1 wherein the polymer has polymerized units of:

- (a) 5 - 40 wt % of a vinyl ester of a C<sub>8-13</sub> *neo-acid*;
- (b) 30 - 80 wt % of a C<sub>1-12</sub> alkyl ester of acrylic acid or a C<sub>1-12</sub> alkyl ester of methacrylic acid;
- (c) 0 - 20% wt % of a vinyl ester of a saturated aliphatic acid;
- (d) 0 - 30 wt % ethylene, styrene or butadiene;
- (e) 0 - 20 wt % a di-(C<sub>1-13</sub>)alkyl maleate or a di-(C<sub>1-13</sub>)alkyl fumarate;
- (f) 0 - 5 wt % of a hydroxyalkyl acrylate or a hydroxyalkyl methacrylate;
- (g) 0 - 5 wt % acrylamide or methacrylamide; and,
- (h) 0 - 10 wt % of an alpha, beta-ethylenically unsaturated monocarboxylic acid,

based on the total weight of monomers in the polymer.

3. (Previously Presented) The blend of claim 1 wherein the polymer has polymerized units of:

- (a) 15 - 30 wt % of a vinyl ester of a C<sub>8-13</sub> *neo-acid*;
- (b) 40 - 70 wt % of a C<sub>1-12</sub> alkyl ester of acrylic or a C<sub>1-12</sub> alkyl ester of methacrylic acid;
- (c) 0 - 10 wt % of a vinyl ester of a saturated aliphatic acid;

- (d) 0 - 20 wt % ethylene, styrene or butadiene;
- (e) 0 - 10 wt % a di-(C<sub>1-13</sub>)alkyl maleate or a di-(C<sub>1-13</sub>)alkyl fumarate;
- (f) 0 - 5 wt % of a hydroxyalkyl acrylate or a hydroxyalkyl methacrylate;
- (g) 0 - 5 wt % acrylamide or methacrylamide; and,
- (h) 0 - 10 wt % of an alpha, beta-ethylenically unsaturated monocarboxylic acid

4. (Original) The blend of claim 1 wherein the hydrostatic head barrier is at least 60 mm.

5. (Original) The blend of claim 1 comprising, on a 100 % dry weight solids basis:

- 10 - 90 wt % Polymer Emulsion
- 10 - 90 wt % Paraffin Wax Emulsion
- 0 - 80 wt % Water Soluble Polymer or  
Protective Colloid
- 0 - 5 wt % Fluoro Surfactant
- 0 - 10 wt % Other components

6. (Original) The blend of claim 1 comprising, on a 100 % dry weight solids basis

- 20 - 80 wt % Polymer Emulsion
- 20 - 80 wt % Paraffin Wax Emulsion
- 0 - 10 wt % Water Soluble Polymer or  
Protective Colloid
- 0 - 3 wt % Fluoro Surfactant
- 0 - 5 wt % Other components

7. (Previously Presented) The blend of claim 1 wherein the polymer emulsion has a T<sub>g</sub> of -20 °C to -50 °C.

8. (Original) The blend of claim 1 wherein the paraffin wax emulsion further comprises polyethylene wax, carnauba wax or ethylene acrylic acid.

Claims 9-24 (Canceled).